Happiness Pony

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Past these gates, everything is boundless.

November 2011

Beards of Worcester



Ellery B. Crane





Paul Hernandez



Jeremy Shulkin



Derek Ring



Ioe Devoe

Is Worcester Smaller Than Providence?

The population of Worcester, from the 2010 census, is 181,045; the population of Providence is a mere 178,042.

But Worcester has 37.6 square miles of land, to Providence's 18.5. Worcester has half the population density of Providence, 4,815 people/square mile vs. 9,623.9. Even several of the towns that border Providence, like North Providence, Central Falls, and Pawtucket, are much more densely populated than Worcester.

Thus, while being the "second largest city in New England," Worcester is much less urban than Providence—Worcester's high population comes as much from its physical size as its density. This in no way affects our love for Worcester, but does lead us to take any direct comparison between the two cities with a grain of salt. (Mike Benedetti)

Read the Newspapers

Always take a trustworthy newspaper, and thus keep thoroughly posted in regard to the transactions of the world. He who is without a newspaper is cut off from his species. In these days of telegraphs and steam, many important inventions and improvements in every branch of trade are being made, and he who don't [sic] consult the newspapers will soon find himself and his business left out in the cold. (P.T. Barnum)

Salt for the Unsalted

BY BRUCE "SNOW GHOST" RUSSELL

Dear Bruce: What gospel is the Little Drummer Boy story from?

Emmanuel.

Dear Bruce: Have you ever gone vegan?

There's more vegan in an empty skull than a heart can pump blood through 2,000 organs.

City Council Election Results

There are three new Worcester City Councilors as of the 2011 election: two realtors (Tony Economou and George Russell) and one minister/therapist (Sarai Rivera).





Craftershock!! Alternative Craft Fair

Presented by Worcester Roller Derby worcesterrollerderby.com

> December 18 11am-5pm

34 Suffolk Street Worcester

A day filled with food, fun, derby girls, last minute shopping, and interesting handmade goods.





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Street, Worcester. Mike Benedetti photo.

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"Let hope predominate, but be not too visionary."



Phineas Taylor Barnum made his name and money through hoaxes, marvels, or downright lies, depending on who you ask. I'd say all three. He justified himself by saying that he was giving the public the entertainment they wanted, satisfying their desire to be drawn in by the spectacle—even if the spectacle didn't turn out to be exactly what was advertised. We recognize him today as an oft-maligned example of cheap American culture and overthe-top publicity. Maybe we think of him when the circus that still bears his name is the target of animal rights activists. He did have an elephant in his day, but the shows and museums he created were full of mysteries out of sync with today's version. Half a monkey and half a fish sewn together and billed as a mermaid. The Siamese twins who gave conjoined siblings their name. A small man named Tom Thumb. Opera singers. Somehow he tied this all together and billed it as family fare, maybe because he was part of the temperance movement. You can do zany things if you're straight-edge. And if you're Barnum, you can get rich and then write that the trick to becoming so is to stay in touch with your dreams but focus on one scheme and follow it through, not getting distracted by a new thing every few months. What scheme are you working on? Does it involve curiosities and hippodromes? (words by Jen Burt; art by Tooth Granat)